Welfare Measures for Child Labour

2384. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government for implementation of various programmes of welfare measures for abolishing the child labour during the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Government of India has been implementing two schemes, namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under the Scheme of NCLP, funds are released to the Child Labour Project Societies constituted at the district level under the Chairpersonship of the District Collector. The major activity under the Scheme is running of Special Schools/Centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health-care, stipend etc. So far 85 child labour projects are under implementation in 10 child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.8 lakh children.

Under the Scheme of Grant-in-Aid, funds are released directly to voluntary organisations for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children. 83 voluntary organisations are implementing projects under the Scheme.

Child Labour is a deep rooted socio-economic problem which needs 'sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour.